

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Provided are methods, data processing systems and computer programs enabling selection of an appropriate message filtering policy for inter-broker communications within a message broker network. The policy determines whether a broker should forward messages to all its neighbour brokers ('broadcast') or should filter messages based on subscription information for connected brokers and, if filtering, what filtering rules to implement and when. Filtering rules may differentiate between different groups of message topics. The filtering policy selected may differ for different links within a single broker or multi-broker network and, additionally or alternatively, the communication strategy for the network or for specific links within the network may be changed according to current network use characteristics.